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JAB-O-METER
TAKE YOUR SHOT
April 26 **19,67,717 doses**
April 27 **17,28,894 doses**
TOTAL DOSES 1,88,38,30,835

NATIONWIDE	APR 26	APR 27
Fresh cases	2,483	2,927
Recoveries	1,970	2,252
Deaths	1,399	32

KARNATAKA	APR 26	APR 27
Fresh cases	85	126
Recoveries	70	99
Deaths	0	0

VACCINATING ALL ELIGIBLE KIDS IS TOP PRIORITY: MODI

Schools will need to launch special campaigns to inoculate all eligible children at the earliest, PM Narendra Modi said

COVID THREAT IS NOT OVER YET, SAYS PM

Speaking at an interaction with chief ministers on Wednesday, the Prime Minister said Covid still poses threat. Noting that schools have opened after a long time and parents are worried over the recent spike in infections in some states, Modi said vaccination is the best way to protect against the virus. But there was no word on the timeframe of the inoculation drive

STOPPING INFECTION AT BEGINNING IS KEY

- "Stopping initial infection is the key and it should remain the same even today," the Prime Minister said
- His remarks come a day after India's drug regulator granted restricted emergency use authorisation for Corbevax and Covaxin for children between 5 and 12 years | P3,9

1 CRORE
CHILDREN IN 12-14 AGE GROUP HAVE BEEN ADMINISTERED 1ST DOSE OF COVID VACCINE

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

No Covid curbs in state for now: CM

Mega vax drives at schools for 6-12 age group

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

AS per Prime Minister Narendra Modi's instruction, the Karnataka government will take up a mega-vaccination drive for children aged between 6 and 12 at schools, said Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, but added that no restrictions on economic activities will be imposed, though the public has to cooperate by following all Covid protocols.

He said that the government plans to focus more on Bengaluru as the state capital has emerged as the Covid hotspot in the state.

Speaking to reporters after a video-conference with Modi to discuss the prevailing Covid situation in the country on Wednesday, Bommai said they explained the present scenario in Karnataka to the Prime Minister.

Covid is under control in the state. But after April 9, the positivity rate has started rising in Bengaluru. The state government has now increased testing, aiming to reach at least 30,000 tests per day and are now conducting over 10,000 tests daily in Bengaluru.

Random testing for international travellers is also being done. Officials are carrying out tele-tracking of passengers from Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, South Korea and other countries where cases are high. This apart, Bommai said, Covid tests will be conducted on all severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) patients admitted at various hospitals, and if they test positive, their samples would be sent for genome testing.

On Tuesday, the Drug Controller General of India gave approval for Covaxin by Bharath Biotech to be administered among 6-12 year-olds. The PM directed states to organise mega-vaccination drives at schools for children in this age group and also to increase vaccination of older children. The focus is on people who are over 60 years old, he added.

"As per Prime Minister Modi's direction, we are focusing more on Track, Trace, Treat and Tika (vaccination)," Bommai added. CONTINUED ON: P5

Oppn retorts after PM tells them to cut fuel tax

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday took Opposition chief ministers by surprise at a Covid review meeting by attacking them for not reducing taxes to contain fuel prices, triggering a volley of angry retorts from them.

Calling it injustice, he urged them to reduce value added tax (VAT) on fuel in their states in national interest to ease the burden on the common man.

A big part of his concluding remarks during the meeting was on fuel prices. But since all others participants were muted, the fuming Opposition later accused Modi of playing politics and passing the buck.

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee said the interaction was one-sided and misleading. "Facts shared by him were wrong. We have been providing a subsidy of ₹1 on every litre of petrol and diesel for the last three years."

Telangana minister KT Rama Rao was caustic. "Name-calling states for not reducing VAT even though we never increased it; is this the co-operative federalism... #Telangana hasn't increased VAT on fuel since 2014 & rounded off only once," he said.

Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan ruled out any VAT relief saying, "It is neither fair nor feasible for the state government to further reduce taxes."

Kerala's Finance Minister K N Balagopal said the increase in fuel rates was due to the cess and surcharge levied by the Centre, adding Kerala has not increased fuel tax since the last six years.

Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray said the Centre owed ₹26,500 crore to the state and accused it of a step-motherly treatment. Congress' RS Surjewala sought an account of the ₹27 lakh crore collected by the BJP government from tax on fuel. P4

CM: NEED TO KEEP ECONOMY IN MIND

CM Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday was noncommittal on any further cut in fuel tax saying any decision on this will be taken after looking at the status of the economy of the state. "We must see our economy also. Based on that, we will decide," he said.

ANOTHER ROW?

Minister objects to catechism in Christian schools

ENS @ Mangaluru

TAKING a U-turn just days after announcing that Bible and Quran, apart from Bhagavad Gita, will be part of moral education in schools, Primary and Secondary Education Minister BC Nagesh on Wednesday raised an objection to Christian schools conducting catechism classes for students, saying it is in violation of the Karnataka Education Act.

The statement is likely to kick up a row as many Christian schools conduct catechism classes for Christian students.

At Hampankatta in Mangaluru, he said that no religious practices or religious texts can be allowed in schools. "It's a different matter if you tell students about Jesus Christ like we do about Swami Vivekananda. But you cannot allow religious practices in schools. The Bible and Quran are religious books," he said.

Asked whether the Gita is allowed in schools, he said, "It teaches values to be adopted in one's life, whereas here students are being asked to follow the Christ. Comparing Bhagavad Gita with other religious books is not right, because Gita is not a religious text." P4

11 electrocuted during TN car fest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Thanjavur

ELEVEN people, including three children, were electrocuted and 17 others injured when a temple chariot (sapparam) came in contact with a high-tension overhead power line at Kalimedu village on Thanjavur-Budalur main road early on Wednesday.

Sources said the accident occurred when the chariot was being taken in a procession during the 94th *sathaya vizha* of Tirunavukkarasar. The decorated car with wooden base was pulled through the streets of the village from around Tuesday midnight. The procession reached the eastern end of the village around 3.10 am on Wednesday. After this, when people tried to turn the chariot to take it back to its stand near the temple (Appar Mutt), the top of the chariot touched the power line. Six people died on the spot. At least 22 other injured were rushed to Thanjavur medical college hospital. Five of them later died.

The temple chariot after the incident at Kalimedu village in Thanjavur on Wednesday | MK ASHOK KUMAR

President Ram Nath Kovind, PM Narendra Modi, Governor R N Ravi, and Chief Minister M K Stalin expressed shock and grief over the deaths. Modi announced ₹2 lakh each from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to the next of kin of those who lost their lives, and ₹50,000 to those injured.

EXPRESS READ

Sudeep, Ajay Devgn in Twitter spat over Hindi

BENGALURU: Actors Sudeep and Ajay Devgn had a Twitter confrontation over the national language. Devgn claimed Hindi "will always be our mother tongue", responding to Sudeep | P5

PSI recruitment scam: Govt transfers ADGP

Bengaluru: Stung by the PSI recruitment scam, the state government on Wednesday transferred ADGP, Recruitment, Amrit Paul and posted him as ADGP, Internal Security Division | P4

Sri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAM LTD
(A Govt of Karnataka Undertaking)

Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources and Belagavi District Incharge Minister Sri Govind M. Karjol Inspecting Developmental works of the Department

Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony for the work of Filling Water to 09 tanks of Jagalur Taluk, Davanagere District from Upper Bhadra Project and Providing Drip Irrigation Facility to an area of 18423 hectares

Date : 29.04.2022 Friday, Timing : 11.30 AM Venue : Bayaluranga Mandira, Jagaluru

INAUGURATION
Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

AUGUST PRESENCE
Sri B.S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Former Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
Sri Govind M. Karjol
Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources

Sri B.A. Basavaraj (Bhairathi)
Hon'be Minister for Urban Development & In-Charge Minister for Davanagere District

Dr G.M. Siddeshwar
Hon'ble Member of Parliament
Davanagere Constituency

PRESIDED BY
Sri S.V. Ramachandra
Hon'ble Member of Vidhan Sabha (Jagalur Constituency) & President, Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation, Bengaluru

CHIEF GUESTS
Sri M.P. Renukacharya
Hon'ble Member of Vidhan Sabha (Honnali Constituency) & Political Secretary to Chief Minister, Govt of Karnataka

Sri K. Maadal Virupakshappa
Hon'ble Member of Vidhan Sabha (Channagiri Constituency) & President and Director, Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Limited, Bengaluru

Dr. Y.A. Narayanaswamy
Hon'ble Govt Chief Whip
Karnataka Vidhan Parishat

Prof. N. Linganna
Hon'ble Member of Vidhan Sabha (Mayakondahalli Constituency) and President, Dr. Babu Jagajeevanram Leather Industries Development Corporation Ltd, Bengaluru

Sri Y. Devendrappa
Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Bellary Constituency)

Dr. Shamanoor Shivashankarappa
Hon'ble Member
Vidhan Sabha Davanagere (South) Constituency

Sri S.A. Ravindranath
Hon'ble Member, Vidhan Sabha
Davanagere (North) Constituency

Sri Mohankumar Kondajji
Hon'ble Member
Vidhan Parishat

Sri S. Ramappa
Hon'ble Member, Vidhan Sabha
Harihara Constituency

Sri K.P. Nanjundi Vishwakarma
Hon'ble Member
Vidhan Parishat

Sri Ravikumar N
Hon'ble Member
Vidhan Parishat

Dr. Tejaswini Gowda
Hon'ble Member
Vidhan Parishat

Sri Ayanoor Manjunath
Hon'ble Member
Vidhan Parishat

Sri S.L. Bhojegowda
Hon'ble Member
Vidhan Parishat

Sri Chidananda M Gowda
Hon'ble Member
Vidhan Parishat

Sri R. Shankar
Hon'ble Member
Vidhan Parishat

Sri D.S. Arun
Hon'ble Member
Vidhan Parishat

Sri K.S. Naveen
Hon'ble Member
Vidhan Parishat

Sri S. Siddappa
Hon'ble President
Town Panchayat, Jagalur

Smt Manjamma B Manjanna
Hon'ble Vice-President
Town Panchayat, Jagalur

And all Local Representatives of Jagalur Assembly Constituency, Davanagere District.

Sangenahalli Lake

Scope of the Project :

- Upper Bhadra Project envisages providing irrigation facility to an area of **2,25,515 hactares (5.57 lakh Acres)** by drip irrigation in Chikmagalur, Chitradurga, Tumkur and Davanagere districts and filling **367 Nos. of tanks** in these districts to 50% of their capacity utilising **29.90 TMC of water.**

Project Components :

- Lifting of **17.40 TMC** water from Tunga River to Bhadra reservoir in two stages and in total Lifting of **29.90 TMC water** from Bhadra reservoir to Ajjampura tunnel in two stages in Tungabhadra sub-basin of Krishna basin., conveying water to Chitradurga Branch Canal and Tumkur Branch Canal.
- To serve the purpose water is lifted at 4 locations. i.e. from Tunga river to Bhadra reservoir at 2 places viz., Kanabur of N.R. Pura Taluk and village near Kusuburu and from Bhadra reservoir to Ajjampura tunnel near Shantipura and Bettadatavarekere of Tarikere Taluk.
- Jagalur Branch Canal offtakes from Ch: **120.588 Km** (Near Belaghatta Village) of Chitradurga Branch Canal. It consists of **53.82 km** Gravity main to irrigate an area of **18423** Ha by Drip irrigation and to fill 9 tanks for 50% of their capacity. **42 Nos** of villages in Jagalur Taluk are benefited by this project.

Jagaluru Lake

All are Welcome

Rakesh Singh, I.A.S, Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resources Dept.,
Sri S.R. Umashankar, I.A.S, Principal Secretary to Government, Cooperative Dept and In-Charge Secretary for Davanagere District
Krishnamurthy B Kulkarni, K.E.S, Secretary to Government, Water Resources Dept.,
Sri N Lakshmanrao Peshwe, K.E.S, Managing Director, V J N L, Bengaluru
Sri Mahantesh Bevinagi, I.A.S, Deputy Commissioner, Davanagere District
Sri C.B. Rishyant, I.P.S, Superintendent of Police, Davanagere District
Sri Raghavan, K.E.S, Chief Engineer, Upper Bhadra Project Zone, Chitradurga
Dr. A. Channappa, K.A.S, Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Davanagere Dist

Please Wear Mask and Maintain Social Distance

To safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the Fundamental Duty of every Indian